

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O-L MACFARLANE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

SECRET STATE 089812

NODIS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM TEHRAN DTD 14APR 1976 QUOTE

SECRET TEHRAN 3746

NODIS

PLEASE PASS CAIRO

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS,EG, IR,SUS

SUBJ: TRAINING FOR EGYPTIAN PILOTS

REFS: (A) STATE 087787, (B) TEHRAN 3713, (C) CAIRO 4908

1. GENERAL AZHARI, CHIEF SUPREME COMMANDER'S STAFF, RAISED WITH US APRIL 14 MATTER OF EGYPTIAN TRAINING ON C-130'S. HE HAD JUST RECEIVED LETTER DATED APRIL 8 FROM GOE ASKING FOR URGENT AGREEMENT TO ALLOW EIGHT PILOTS, WHO HAD PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE ON TRANSPORTATION AIRCRAFT, TWO NAVIGATORS AND SEVERAL TECHNICIANS TO FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH IIAF C-130S. ALTHOUGH LETTER STIPULATED THAT GOE WOULD BEAR ALL EXPENSES IN IRAN, AZHARI INDICATED IT WAS POSSIBLE GOI WOULD PICK UP TAB. HE THOUGHT EGYPTIANS WERE APPROACHING IRAN BECAUSE OF EXPENSE OF U.S. TRAINING.

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2. WE REVIEWED POINTS MADE PREVIOUSLY WITH GENERAL MASSUMI (REFS A AND B). RE F-4 AND F-5 TRAINING, AZHARI SAID TOUFANIAN HAD NOT BEEN "CLOSE" TO SUBJECT, AND C-130 TRAINING WAS ONLY ITEM ON AGENDA. (WE SUSPECT TOUFANIAN OF A LITTLE BAZAAR BARGAINING WITH ADDITION OF F-4 AND 5S.) WE SAID THAT MATTER OF C-130 TRAINING WOULD, LIKE PRICE, DELIVERY DATE, SPARES, BE TAKEN UP WITH EGYPTIANS AS PART OF PACKAGE OF ARRANGEMENTS WE WOULD NEGOTIATE WHEN CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS WERE COMPLETED. PROPOSAL FOR IRANIAN TRAINING WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN THAT CONTEXT. EGYPTIANS HAD AGREED TO THIS APPROACH, SEVERAL DAYS, IT SEEMED, AFTER WRITING LETTER TO AZHARI. WE ASKED THAT GOI WAIT SHORT TIME UNTIL WE HAD HAD CHANCE FOR COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOE.

3. AZHARI SAID HE WOULD REPLY TO GOE LETTER THAT GOI WAS READY TO BEGIN TRAINING AT ANY TIME AND WAS AWAITING APPROVAL OF USG.

4. AMABASSADOR IS SEEING SHAH MORNING APRIL 17. PLEASE LET US KNOW IF THERE IS ANYTHING ELSE HE SHOULD SAY ON THIS MATTER AT THAT TIME.
HELM UNQTE KISSINGER

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